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BATMAN AND SUPERMAN™



Once more, we have an action-packed issue of **I LOVE TO READ BATMAN AND SUPERMAN** just waiting to be read and enjoyed by you.

Our first comic strip adventure story is full of magical mystery and suspense! What would you do if your friend quite literally disappeared during a magician's magic act—and didn't come back?! That's what happens to **Clark Kent** when he and **Lois Lane** go to report on a sell-out magic show in Metropolis. Will Lois come back? The answer lies in *It's a Kind of Magic.*

You would think that the feline felon, **Catwoman**, would be responsible for stealing a collection of cat paintings from the Gotham City Art Museum. However, as **Batman** finds out, this appears not to be the case in the story *Catspaw.* Instead, a gang of criminals tries to get their paws on the exhibits with surprising consequences!

Again there's a great **COMPETITION** in this issue. If you've ever wanted to jazz up your T-shirts, pictures, letters and cards, this competition's for you! We have 150 prizes of **Blitzer** Airbrushes and **Blopens** to give away to the lucky winners. So don't delay. Send your form in today!

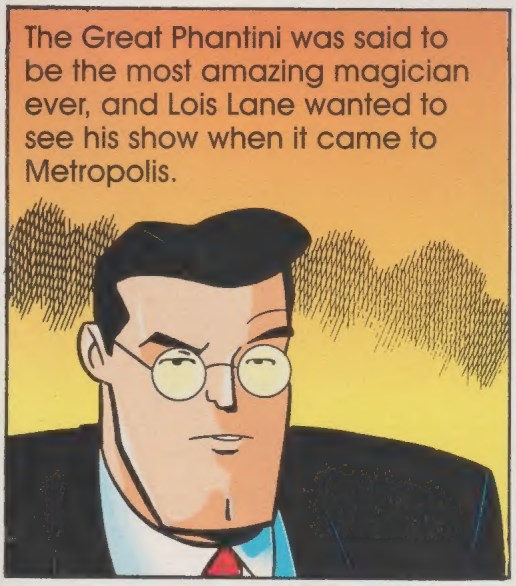


As well as all the above, there's also a great Superman poster, a villain file on Mr. Mxyzptlk, and of course your fun Batman and Superman workbook. So have fun and see you next time!

This magazine has been made with the soft wood pulp from sustainably managed forests. For every tree cut down at least one more is planted.

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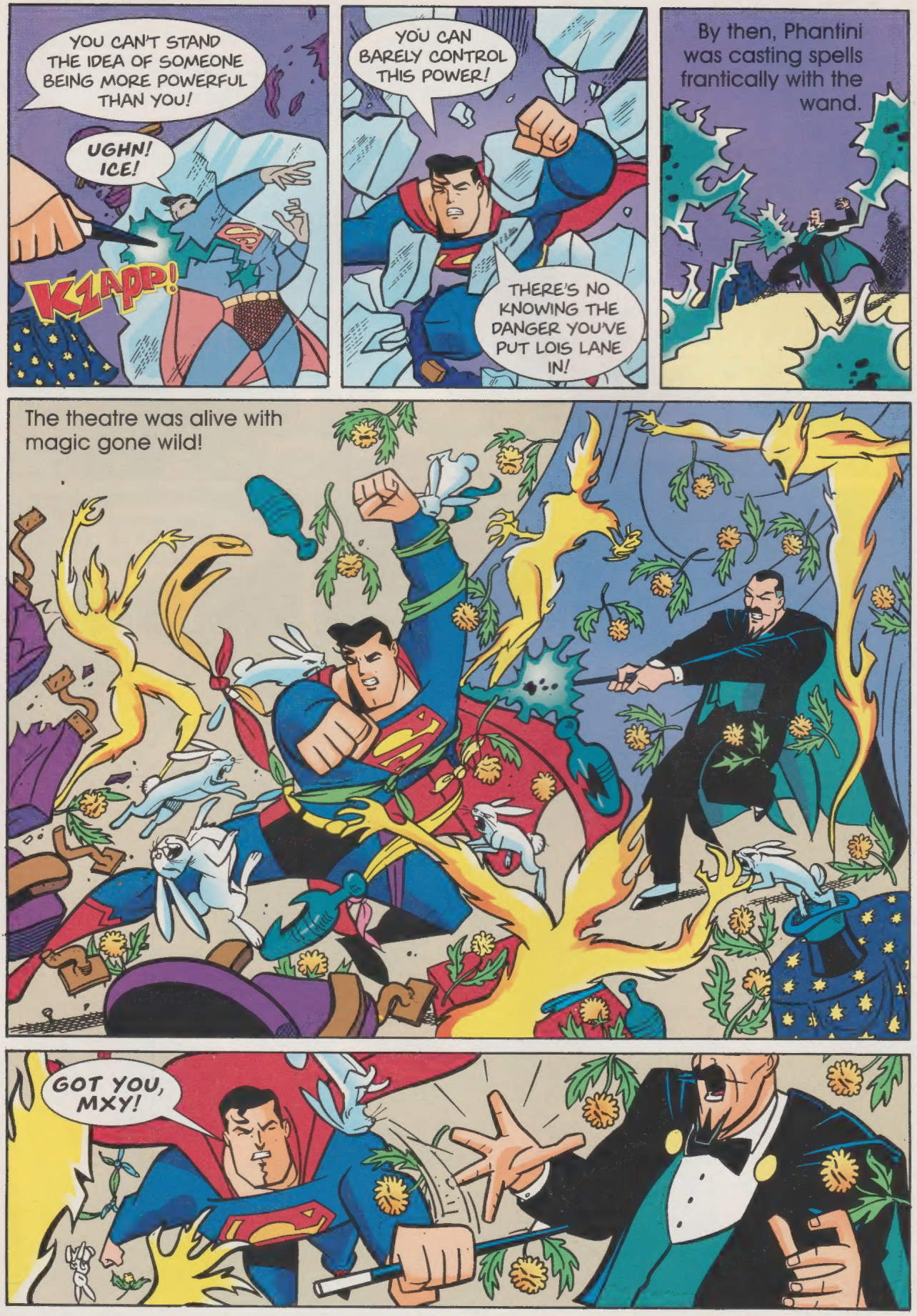


SUPERMAN created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster
Story: Dan Abnett Art: Jimmy Hansen Colours: Robin Smith


The show had been amazing—full of dangerous tricks even Clark couldn't explain—and now Lois was part of the **show stopping finale!**
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
ABRACADABRA! ... PRESTO!
TAP! TAP!
BRAVO!
IMPOSSIBLE!
OH!
WOW!
HUH!
Clark checked the entire stage with his X-ray vision.
NO SIGN OF LOIS! SHE'S REALLY VANISHED!
THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND GOOD NIGHT!


The audience left excitedly, but Clark was worried—Lois had not reappeared.
He decided to investigate further, but not as Clark Kent...
SUPERMAN! THIS IS A SURPRISE! I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE A FAN!
WHERE'S LOIS LANE, PHANTINI? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH HER?
NO WIRES, NO MIRRORS, NO TRICK PROPS! IT SEEMS TO BE REAL MAGIC!
I CAN'T REVEAL MY SECRETS, SUPERMAN! YOU HAVE PRETTY AMAZING POWERS OF YOUR OWN.
ALL I CAN SAY IS... THIS TRULY IS A MAGIC WAND!


WELL, BRING BACK LOIS LANE NOW, PHANTINI!
ER...I CAN'T JUST LIKE THAT. THE WAND HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN!
YOU CAN'T CONTROL IT? IF THAT'S REAL MAGIC, YOU SHOULDN'T USE IT IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!
I FOUND THE WAND THREE MONTHS AGO! IT'S MADE ME THE MOST POWERFUL MAGICIAN EVER!
AND I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE THAT UP!
With a wave of the wand, all the chairs in the club sprang to life and attacked Superman!
PHANTINI, NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M TRYING TO HELP!
YOU MEAN, HELP YOURSELF!
YOU JUST WANT TO TAKE THE POWER AWAY FROM ME!
SMASH


YOU CAN'T STAND THE IDEA OF SOMEONE BEING MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU!
UGHN! ICE!
KZAPP!
YOU CAN BARELY CONTROL THIS POWER!
THERE'S NO KNOWING THE DANGER YOU'VE PUT LOIS LANE IN!
By then, Phantini was casting spells frantically with the wand.
The theatre was alive with magic gone wild!
GOT YOU, MXY!

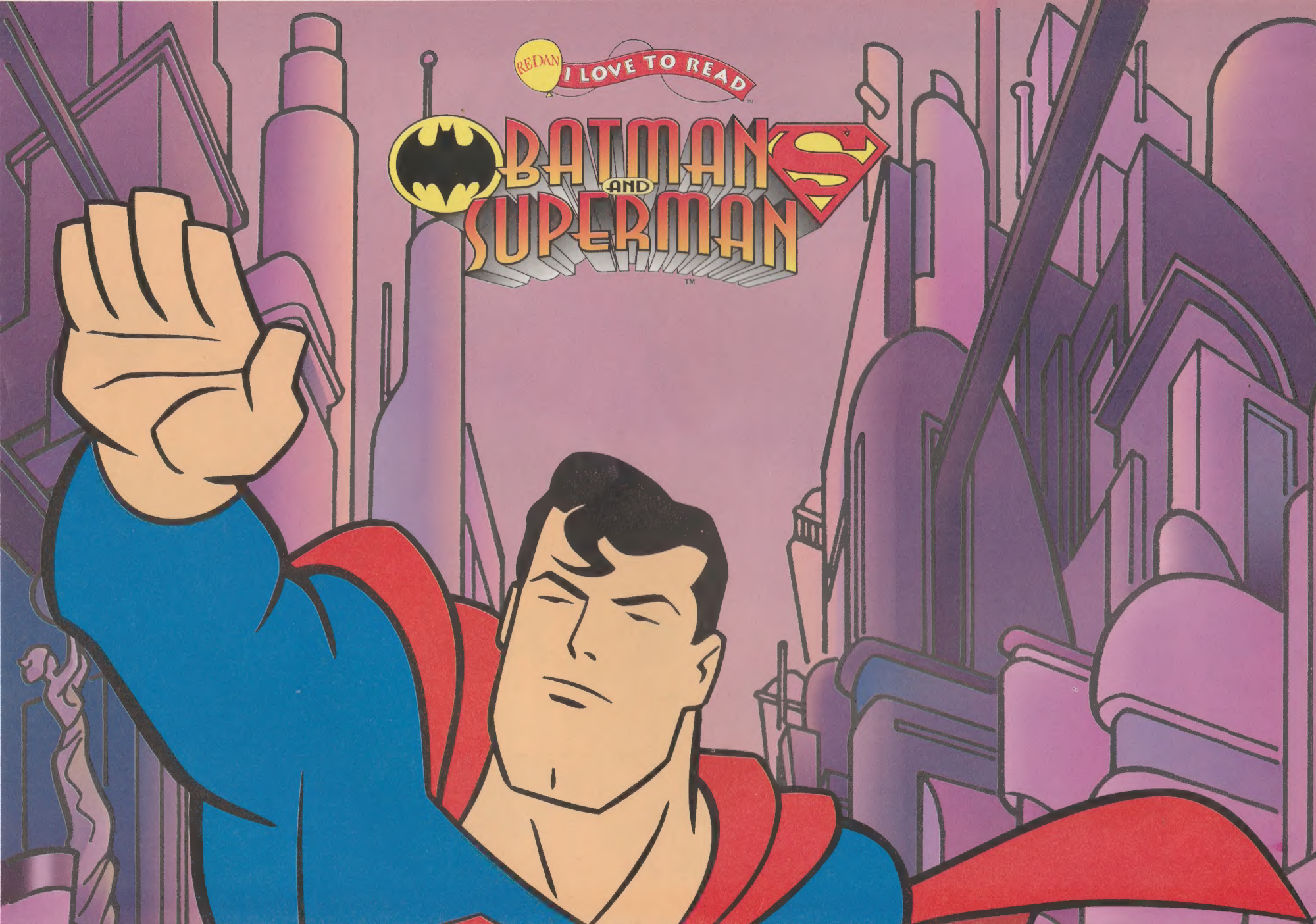

OH, SUPES! YOU'VE FOUND ME OUT!
I LEFT THIS WAND BEHIND AFTER MY LAST VISIT TO SEE WHAT FUN IT WOULD CAUSE.
I KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS FELT FAMILIAR!
POP!
NOW YOU'VE SPOILED ALL THE FUN!
BUT NEXT TIME I'LL BE BACK...IN PERSON!
As soon as the wand vanished, Lois reappeared.
LOIS!
SUPERMAN! WHAT HAPPENED?
JUST A FEW TRICKS FROM AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE...
"...a magic imp from the fifth dimension called **Mr. Mxyzptlk!"**
NEXT TIME, SUPERMAN! NEXT TIME..!
THE END...(FOR NOW!)

WHICH MXY'S MXY?

There are fourteen reflections of Mr. Mxyzptlk from the fifth dimension shown below. Only one of them is the correct reflection of the mischevious imp who is standing in the framed box. Can you find the correct reflection?



Answer: 10 is the real reflection.


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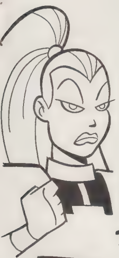
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BATMAN AND SUPERMAN COLOURING AND WORKBOOK

WHO'S HIDDEN?



Write the correct answers to the clues in the small boxes. The letters in the shaded boxes will reveal the name of a performer with special powers. All the words used come from the story *It's a Kind of Magic.*



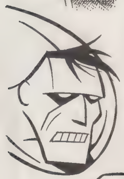
1 mirror
2 THeaTre
3 danger
4 imp
5 secrets
6 chair
7 Superman
8 wand







1. Glass that you look at your reflection in.
2. Building where you watch plays.
3. The possibility that one may be harmed.
4. Small creature with magical powers.
5. Things that are known but not told.
6. Furniture that you sit on.
7. The Man of Steel.
8. Long thin rod used for magic.







WORDSEARCH

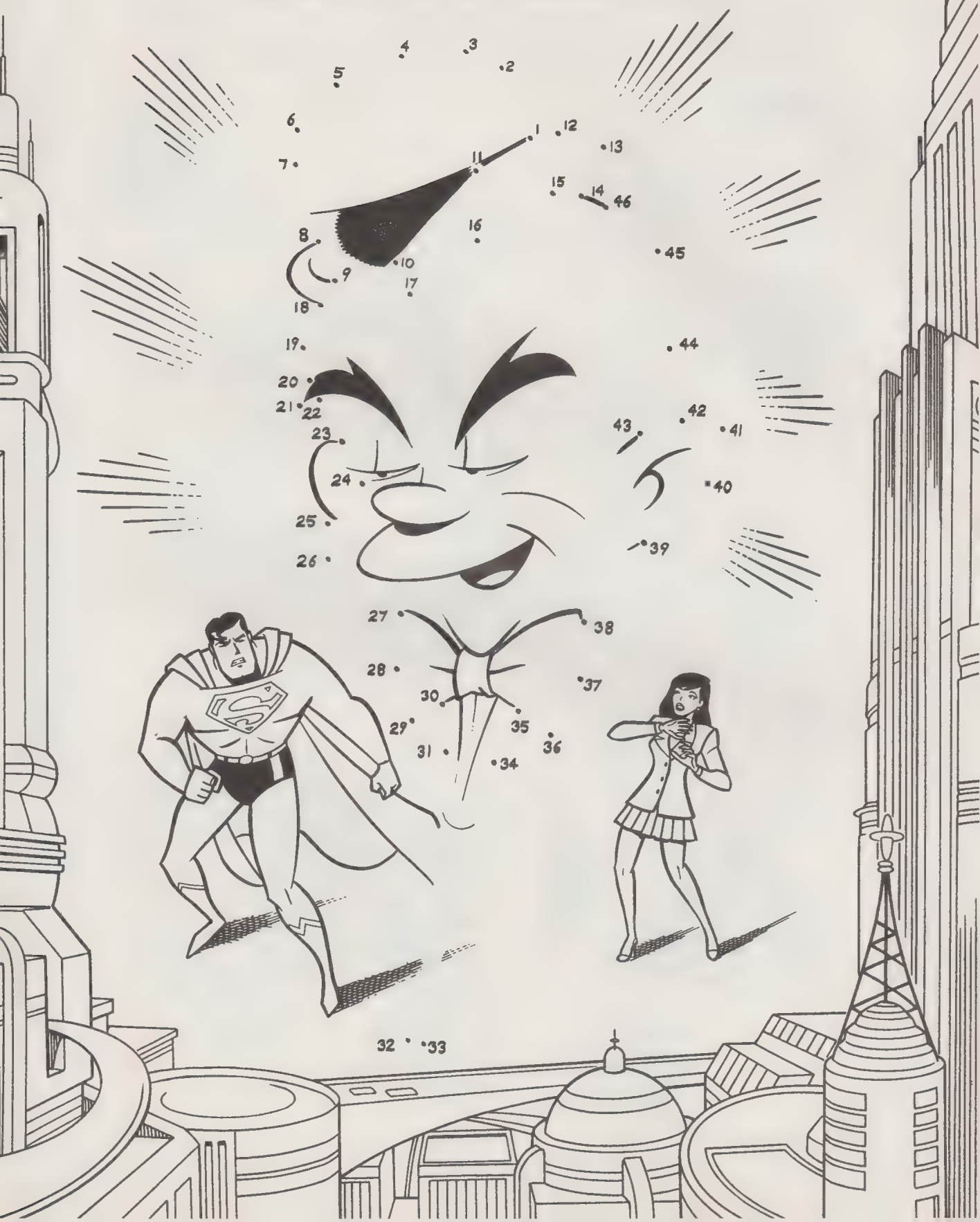
There are ten words from the story *It's a Kind of Magic* hidden in the grid of letters below. They go forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards and diagonally. To help you, the words are written below. Tick them off once you've found them in the wordsearch.

d	n	a	s	l	l	e	p	s	m	v
m	i	y	o	h	o	r	e	n	g	o
m	e	s	k	c	i	r	t	k	y	l
x	o	i	a	c	h	i	n	e	n	u
y	s	a	s	p	o	r	p	n	z	n
z	e	n	h	o	p	n	n	i	n	t
p	m	w	m	y	o	e	m	g	o	e
t	h	o	i	n	z	o	a	n	w	e
l	n	i	c	r	h	i	g	r	a	r
k	r	e	n	m	e	y	i	o	n	h
m	i	r	r	o	r	s	c	o	d	r

- [x] disappear
- [ ] tricks
- [ ] magic
- [ ] wand
- [x] mirrors
- [x] volunteer
- [x] props
- [ ] wires
- [x] mxyzptlk
- [ ] spells

DOT TO DOT

Join the dots to reveal a mixed-up character!



ALL MIXED UP

These pictures have been taken from this month's comic strip story. Put them in the **correct order (1-6)** and write the letter from each picture in the boxes below to find a word used in the story.













1	2	3	4	5	6

HIDDEN IN THE FIFTH DIMENSION!

In the fifth dimension, where Mr. Mxyzptlk comes from, anything can happen! Here Mxy has reversed some words from the story *It's a Kind of Magic.* Put a mirror along the dotted line to read the words. Write each word the correct way around in the spaces provided



vanished : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

surprise : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

audience : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

dangerous : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

stage : _ _ _ _ _

investigate : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

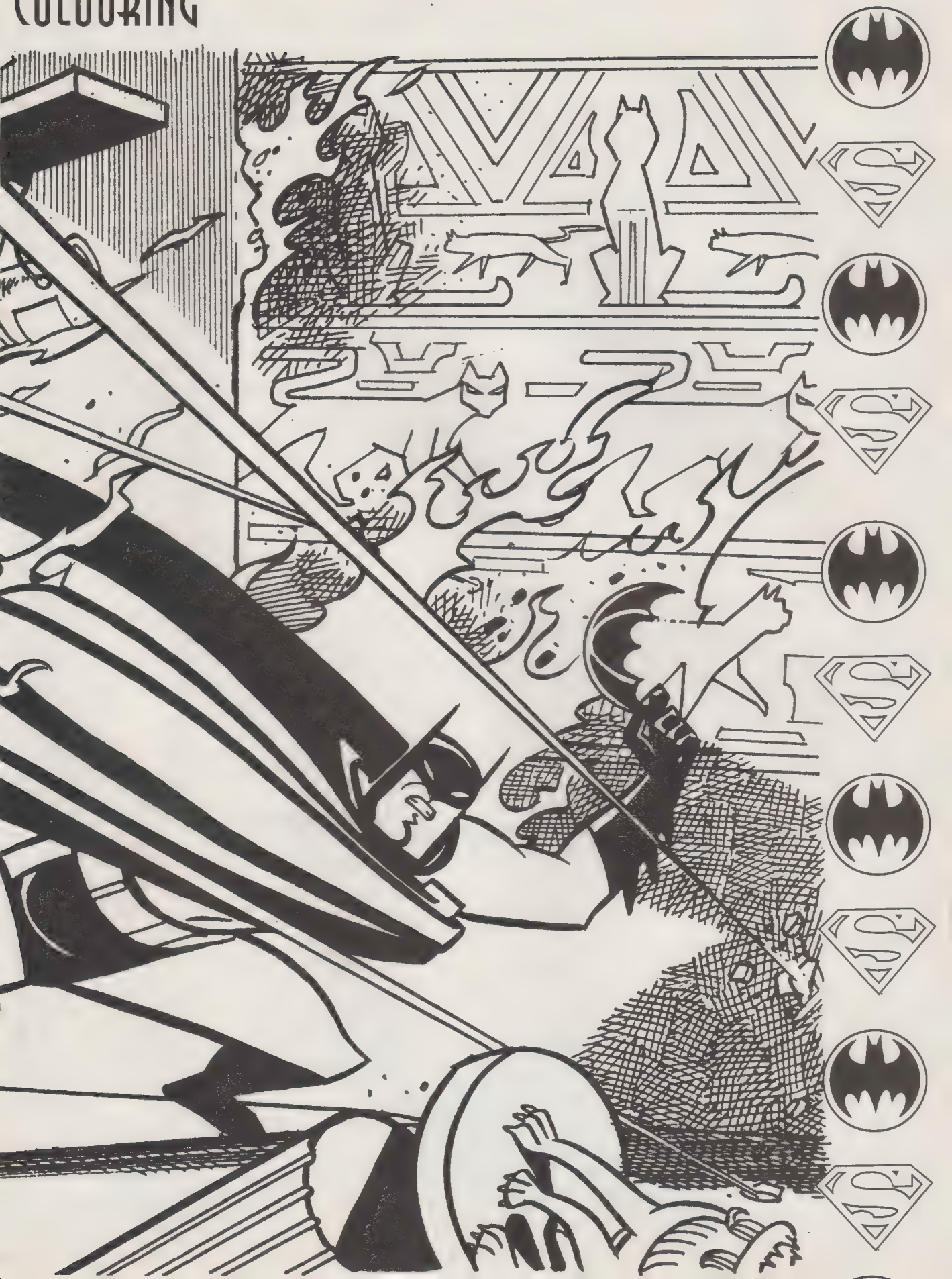
magician : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

amazing : _ _ _ _ _ _ _

powers : _ _ _ _ _ _

Mxyzptlk : _ _ _ _ _ _ _

COLOURING



CAT WORDS

All the answers to the clues below rhyme with the word CAT as in the story *Catspaw.* See how many you can solve and write the answers in the spaces provided.

1. To tap something lightly : _ _ _
2. This is worn on the head : _ _ _
3. A small flying mammal : _ _ _
4. To be very overweight makes you look this : _ _ _
5. A tiny insect that bites people : _ _ _ _
6. The past tense of 'to sit' : _ _ _
7. Feline animal : _ _ _
8. A friendly talk : _ _ _ _
9. A large barrel to keep liquids in : _ _ _
10. Three lengths of entwined hair : _ _ _ _ _
11. A rodent, somewhat larger than a mouse : _ _ _
12. An apartment : _ _ _ _
13. A small carpet : _ _ _
14. This and . . . : _ _ _ _



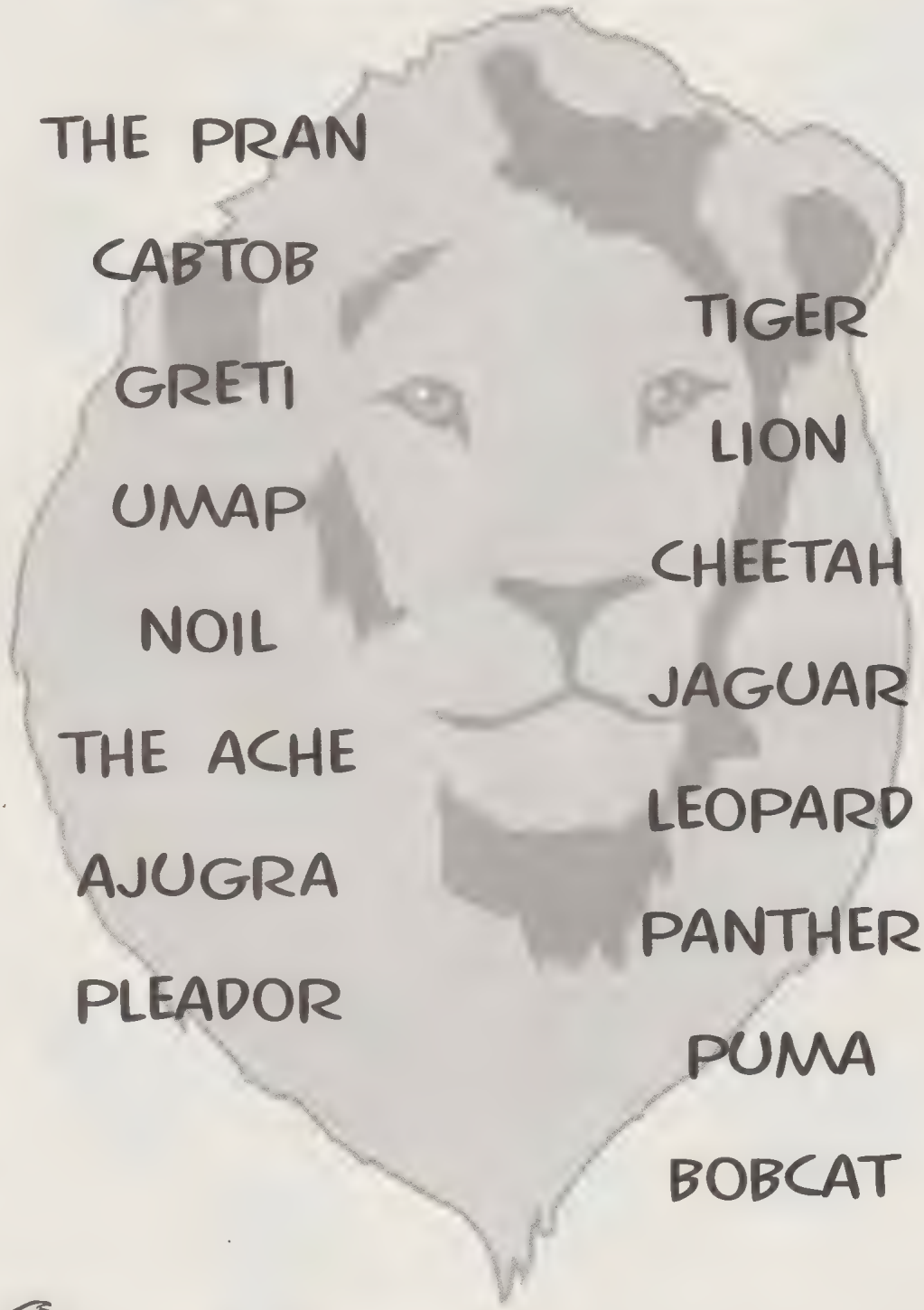
PAWS! PAWS! PAWS!

How good a detective are you? In the story *Catspaw,* Batman is looking out for an exhibition of paintings all about cats. Look at the cat paw prints below and see if you can pair them.



BIG CATS!

In the story *Catspaw,* Batman stops an entire exhibition of cat artifacts from being stolen. There are many types of cat, below are the names of large, wild cats which have been scrambled up. Unscramble the letters to spell the names correctly and match them with the words in the right-hand column.



THE PRAN	TIGER
CABTOB	LION
GRETI	CHEETAH
UMAP	JAGUAR
NOIL	LEOPARD
THE ACHE	PANTHER
AJUGRA	PUMA
PLEADOR	BOBCAT

FIND THE FACT

Solve the nine clues and fit the answers into the grid below. If you solve all the clues correctly, by cross-referencing the letters at the top of the grid with the numbers down the side, you will find corresponding letters (e.g. A2=p and C8=a). Put the correct letters in the boxes at the bottom of the page to reveal an interesting fact. All the words come from the story *Catspaw.*

1. Twelve o'clock at night.
2. The name of certain animals' feet.
3. Building to show off artifacts.
4. Large vehicle.
5. Fake paintings, money, documents etc.
6. Material painters use to paint on.
7. Batman's feline foe.
8. A large fire.
9. Large, heavy cloth with a picture woven into it.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2	p								
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8			a						
9									

					a			
A6	G1	E5	D9	A4	C8	G1	I5

	a	
D4	C8	H7

B4	D9	G7	A7	G1

	p					
C3	A2	E8	H5	C1	E9

B5	A5

C4	C9

H1	B5

1	0	0

E4	G5	B8	E7	F3	E5	A9	H5	B4	I5

C8	H7

G1	B5	C4	G9

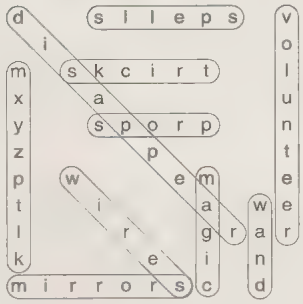


ANSWERS

WHO'S HIDDEN?

1 mirror
2 theatre
3 danger
4 imp
5 secrets
6 chair
7 Superman
8 wand

WORDSEARCH



ALL MIXED UP

P	O	W	E	R	S
1	2	3	4	5	6

HIDDEN IN THE FIFTH DIMENSION!

vanished
surprise
audience
dangerous
stage
investigate
magician
amazing
powers
Mxyzptlk

CAT WORDS

pat
hat
bat
fat
gnat
sat
cat
chat
vat
plait
rat
flat
mat
that

PAWS! PAWS! PAWS!

1=9
2=12
3=11
4=15
5=16
6=8
7=13
10=14

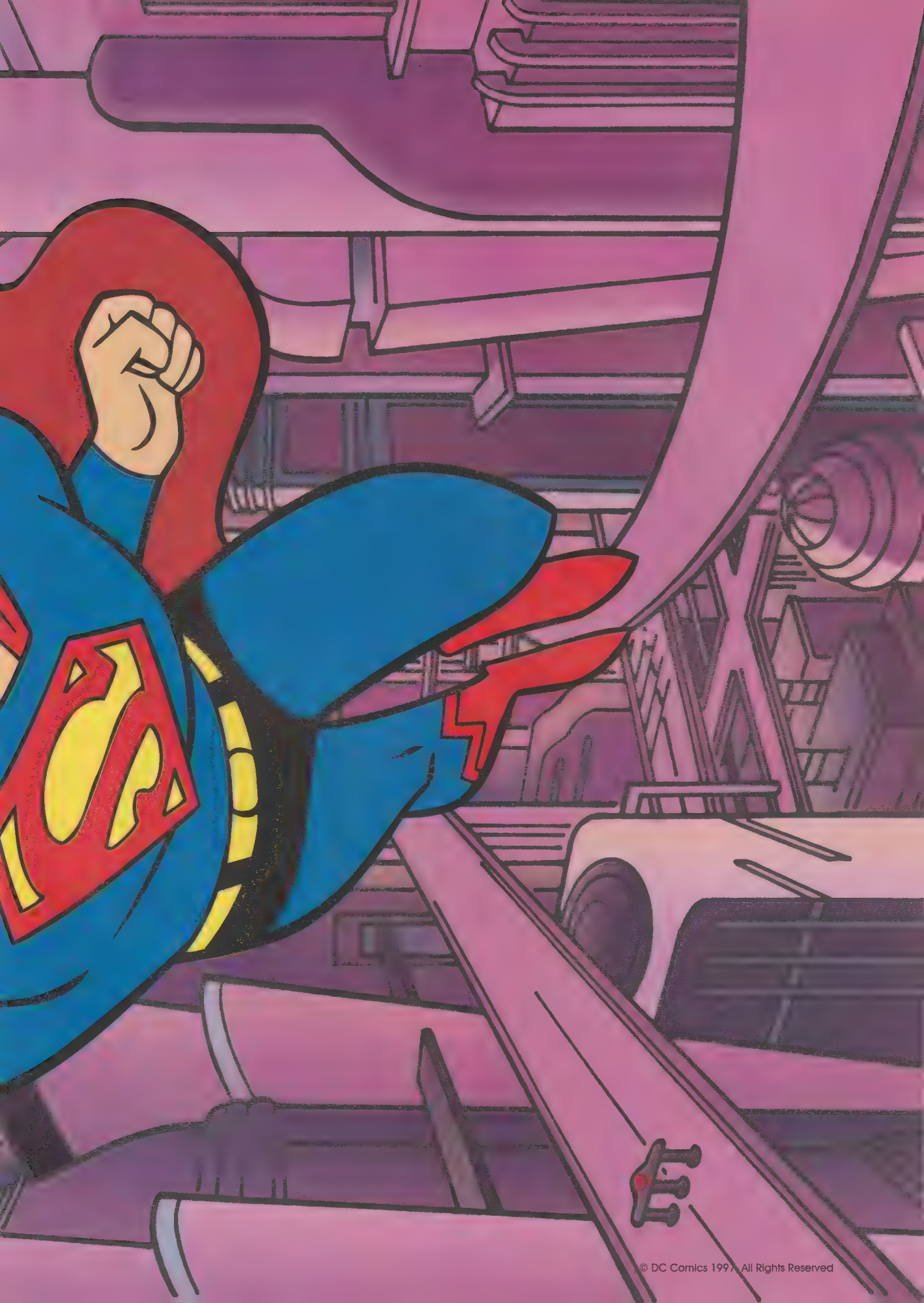
BIG CATS!

THE PRAN = PANTHER
CABTOB = BOBCAT
GRETI = TIGER
UMAP = PUMA
NOIL = LION
THE ACHE = CHEETAH
AJUGRA = JAGUAR
PLEADOR = LEOPARD

FIND THE FACT

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	m	i	d	n	i	g	h	t	
2	p	a	w	s					
3	m	u	s	e	u	m			
4	t	r	u	c	k				
5	f	o	r	g	e	r	i	e	s
6	c	a	n	v	a	s			
7	C	a	t	w	o	m	a	n	
8	b	l	a	z	e				
9	t	a	p	e	s	t	r	y	

cheetah A6 G1 E5 D9 A4 C8 G1 I5
can D4 C8 H7
reach B4 D9 G7 A7 G1
speeds C3 A2 E8 H5 C1 E9
of B5 A5
up C4 C9
to H1 B5
100
killometers E4 G5 B8 E7 F3 E5 A9 H5 B4 I5
an C8 H7
hour H1 B5 C4 G9



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Feline felonies follow in...

CATSPAW



He had never seen so many cats. Everywhere Batman looked there were more of them—on every surface, on every wall. Cats of every imaginable shape, colour and size. Some were prowling, others stalking. One or two were asleep, well fed and content.

Batman smiled grimly. He knew who'd like to get her paws on all these fine works of art.

The anonymous tip he'd received earlier that night had suggested someone would be paying a visit to the Gotham Museum's priceless exhibition of cat paintings and sculptures after normal hours. Batman strongly suspected it would be his old foe Catwoman.

The art treasures had been touring the country for some weeks, but now they were in Gotham City. Now they were under **his** protection.

For long hours Batman waited and watched, and at a little past midnight his patience was finally rewarded. A shadowy figure entered the museum, expertly disabling most of the invisible beams of ultra-violet light and the motion detectors that would otherwise have set off the alarms.

The lithe figure paused, tensed... and then stepped into a thin shaft of moonlight.

It was a man.

Batman recognised him immediately. The pinched, weasely features, the furtive, darting eyes. It was Rolly Tooms, one of crime-boss Rupert Thorne's men. A notorious and highly skilled cat-burglar, Tooms specialised in supplying Thorne with stolen art treasures. He and Catwoman were bitter rivals, and it

BATMAN created by Bob Kane

looked as if this time Tooms had beaten her to the punch.

Batman moved swiftly to intercept Tooms as he reached up to cut a painting from its ornate picture frame. But halfway across the marbled floor Batman stopped, sensing movement in the shadows above him. High up in the rafters, silent figures had appeared—perched, waiting...guns trained.

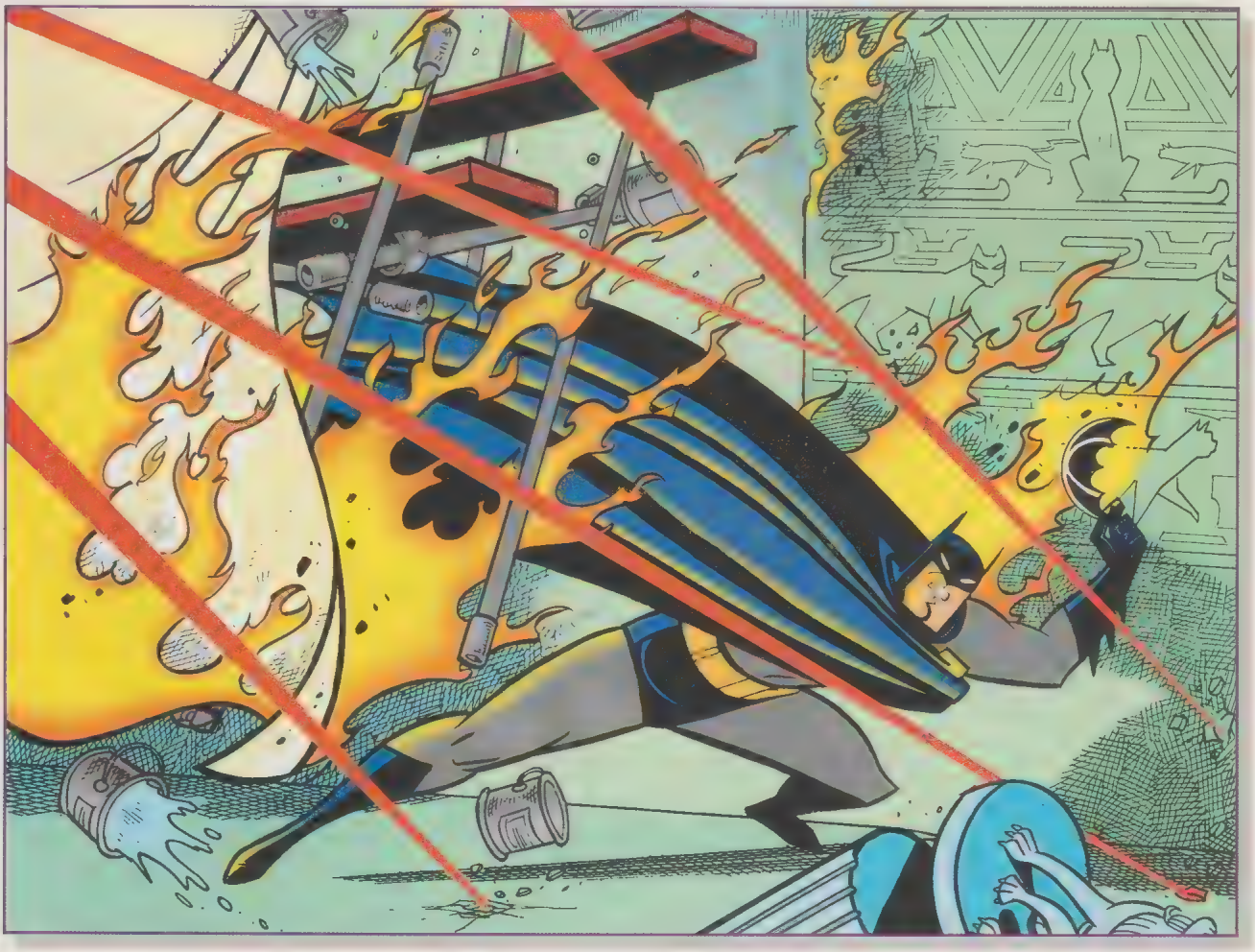
Tooms turned, looked straight at Batman and smiled. "Bang," he whispered. "You're dead!"

The Dark Knight hurled himself sharply aside, only just evading the silenced gunfire that suddenly burst from the museum's cavernous roof space. Batman counted three gunmen. Tooms, it seemed, had not come alone.

As a hail of bullets peppered the ground at his feet, Batman rolled and dived for cover behind a thick canvas sheet, beyond which repairmen had been working earlier in the day.

Hunched down among the workmen's brushes and paints, the sharp smell of methylated spirit causing his eyes to water, Batman's mind whirled. It made no sense. Tooms always worked alone, and yet this time he'd come with a small army. And the way Tooms had smiled, it was as if he was expecting Batman!

Suddenly a shot from the opposite direction whined narrowly over Batman's head, so close he felt its breeze in passing. It struck one of the bottles behind him, and the methylated spirit within exploded into flames.



Before Batman could react, the fire was already racing up an ornate tapestry, out of control. The Dark Knight was trapped between a mob of gun-toting goons and a wall of flames!

The fire, though, proved as much of a surprise to the gunmen as it did to Batman. As it spread, he could hear them calling to Tooms. What should they do? The blaze would bring fire trucks and the cops. Tooms, evidently, didn't much care. Intent only on saving himself, he'd already vanished.

Batman used the distraction to dart from behind the canvas sheet, Batarang at the ready. As the startled gunmen opened up again, trying desperately to track him across the floor, Batman targeted the muzzle-flashes from their guns...and threw.

The Batarang arched up into the roof, connecting solidly with one gunman's arm, causing him to yelp in pain and drop his weapon. A brightly burning flare followed the Batarang, momentarily blinding all the gunmen.

Disoriented, the gunmen didn't see Batman's grapple wrap itself around one of the rafters on which they squatted. Nor did they see Batman himself as the grapple's pulley system lifted him high into the air. In fact, the next thing they saw, after Batman's gloved fist connected solidly with each of their jaws in turn, was the inside of a police van.

Later, once the fire had been brought under control, Batman and Police Commissioner Gordon re-entered the museum. Though the blaze had been contained within one small section, the cat paintings and sculptures were a charred ruin. None of the treasures had been spared.

"It's a dreadful shame, Batman," sighed Gordon. "These works of art are lost forever."

"Don't be too sure, Commissioner," replied Batman, examining a scrap of charred canvas, rubbing it between forefinger and thumb. "Appearances can sometimes be deceptive!"

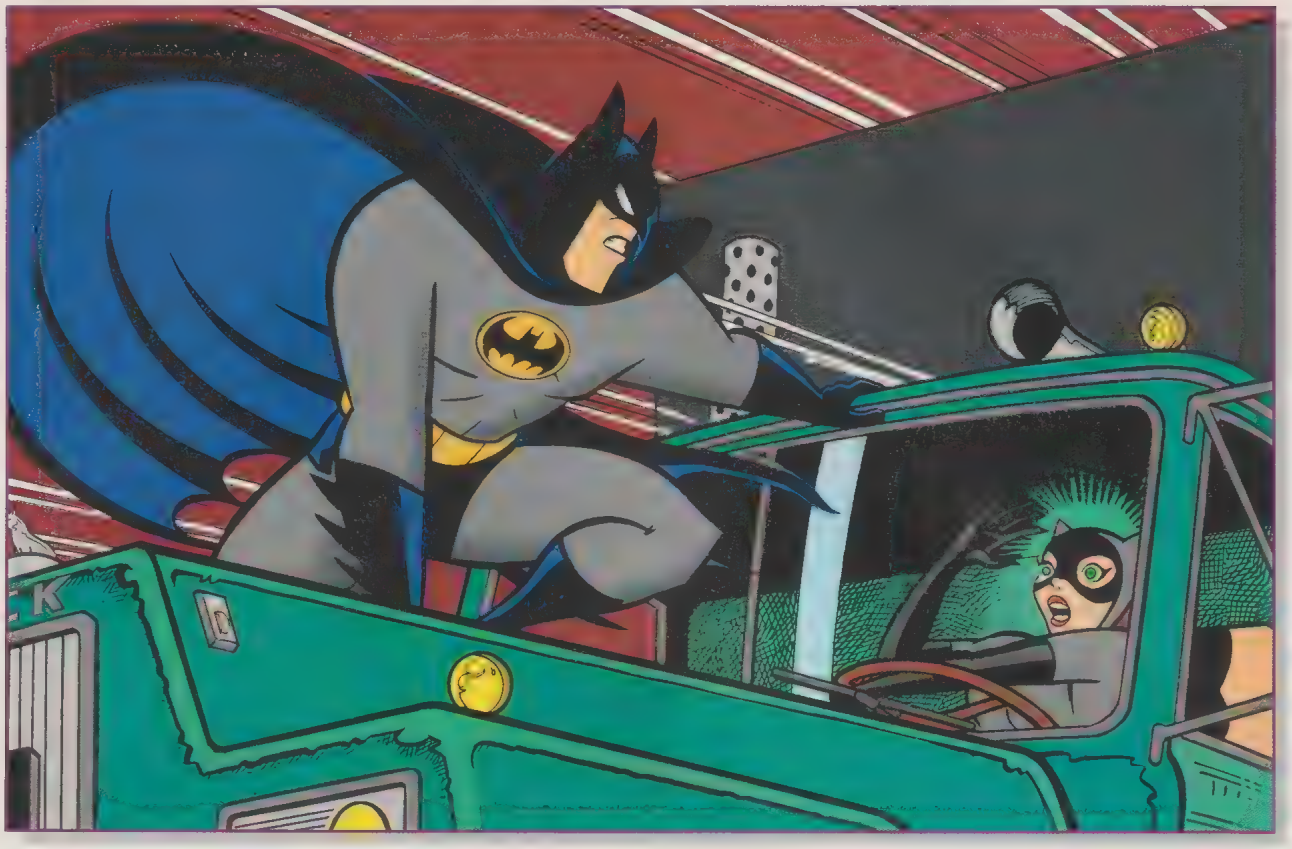
That night, at a small warehouse close to the Gotham river, a battered and unremarkable truck backed out onto the road. Its driver, however, was anything but unremarkable.

Catwoman allowed herself a small smile as she turned the wheel, manoeuvring the truck through the warehouse gates. It had all gone so well. No one suspected a thing. Not Thorne, not Tooms and not even—

"**Batman!**" gasped Catwoman as the Dark Knight landed squarely on the truck's bonnet in front of her.

"But...how?"





"I used a thief to catch a thief," replied Batman. "When I caught up with Tooms and told him how you'd used both of us, he was only too happy to point me in the right direction. A little more detective work and—"

Batman was hurled off-balance as the truck leapt suddenly forwards, Catwoman stamping hard on the accelerator.

As Batman scrambled for a handhold, Catwoman yanked sharply on the steering wheel, trying to dislodge him. But as Batman slipped sideways, his cape billowed out across the windscreen, obscuring Catwoman's view.

"I can't see where I'm going!" cried Catwoman, and with jarring force the van slammed into a lamppost. Batman somersaulted clear.

Catwoman, dazed but unhurt, offered little resistance as Batman helped her from the crumpled cab. The rear doors to the truck had flown wide open in the crash, spilling paintings and sculptures onto the road. There were cats everywhere again.

"The **real** works of art, I take it," said Batman. "Stolen by you before they ever reached Gotham and replaced with forgeries. You knew Thorne wouldn't like you having them instead of him, so you decided to cover your tracks with a convenient fire."

Despite her situation, Catwoman allowed herself a smile. "It almost worked. I tipped off both you and Tooms and then, in the confusion, fired the shot that ignited the blaze."

"Only you forgot that the collection of paintings is over one hundred years old," Batman interrupted. "All the canvases I examined were modern."

Catwoman sighed long and hard. "Almost the purr-fect crime!" THE END

Story: Simon Furman Art: Jimmy Hansen

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For your chance to be a winner, all you have to do is find the eight words hidden in the wordsearch puzzle below. Draw a circle around each word and send your completed entry form, no later than **13th November 1997** to:

Batman and Superman Blitzer/Blopen Competition
PO Box 121, London SE20 8ZQ

0BT2

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SUPERMAN	BATMAN
BLITZER	BLOPEN
ART	COLOUR
BRUSH	FUN

B	N	L	F	U	N	R
N	A	M	T	A	B	E
I	M	T	N	P	R	Z
A	R	T	E	F	U	T
Z	E	R	P	N	S	I
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O	S	U	B	M	N	A

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First Name: .....
Surname: .....
Address: .....
.....
Postcode: .....
Telephone: .....
Parent/Guardian's Signature .....

Child's Details 0BT2

First Name: .....
Surname: .....
Address: .....
.....
Postcode: .....
Telephone: .....

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MR. MXYZPTLK™

VILLAIN FILES

Other Identity:
None
Occupation:
Pest
Known Relatives:
Gsptlsnz (girlfriend)
Base of Operations:
The Fifth Dimension
Height: Variable
Weight: Variable
Eyes: Variable
Hair: Two

Psychological profile:
Mr. Mxyzptlk is an imp from the Fifth Dimension, where everyone has amazing magical powers. Unfortunately, Mxy got bored and discovered another dimension on Earth. His magic is powerful—he can do practically anything! Although his pranks can be dangerous, he thinks it's all just a game and forces Superman to play along. If the Man of Steel meets his challenge, then everything will return to normal and Mxy will disappear until their dimensions come back into alignment thirty days later. Mxy does play by the rules, even if he makes them up as he goes along!

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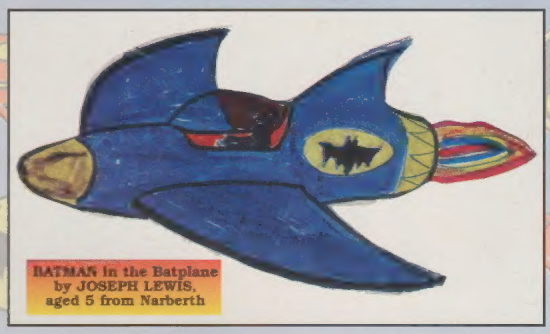
HEROES



BEN LINDSAY, aged 6 from Pevensey



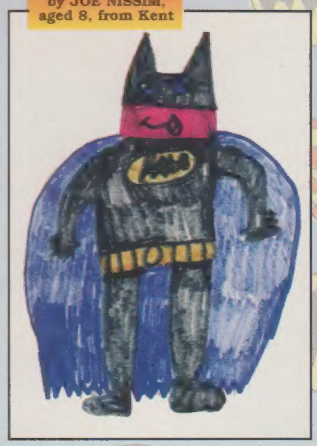
JAMIE THEAHSTON with Batman, aged 9 from Cumbria



BATMAN in the Batplane by JOSEPH LEWIS, aged 5 from Narberth



CLAYFACE by BARNEY DAWSON, aged 5 from Bath

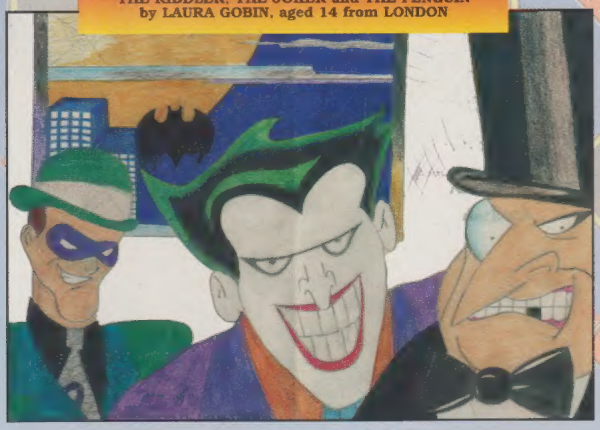


BATMAN by JOE NISSIM, aged 8, from Kent



MARTIN, EMMA and MATTHEW FARRUGIA, aged 5, 7 and 3 from Hove

HOT LINE



THE RIDDLER, THE JOKER and THE PENGUIN
by LAURA GOBIN, aged 14 from LONDON



THE PARASITE
by PAUL RENDALL, aged 6
from the ORKNEY ISLES



ROBERT LUFT,
aged 3½, from Sidcup



SUPERMAN
by GRAHAM WILSON,
aged 6½, from Glasgow

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE



The Batman comic strip story in next month's issue is a real rollercoaster ride of an adventure! **Bruce Wayne** cannot come to the rescue as **Batman** when he is trapped on board a runaway rollercoaster car in full view of a crowded fun fair. **Robin** must use his own resources to rescue Gotham City's benevolent billionaire and the innocent people riding with him. This is not a situation to joke about, but someone's laughing. Find out who in the story *Wayne's World*.

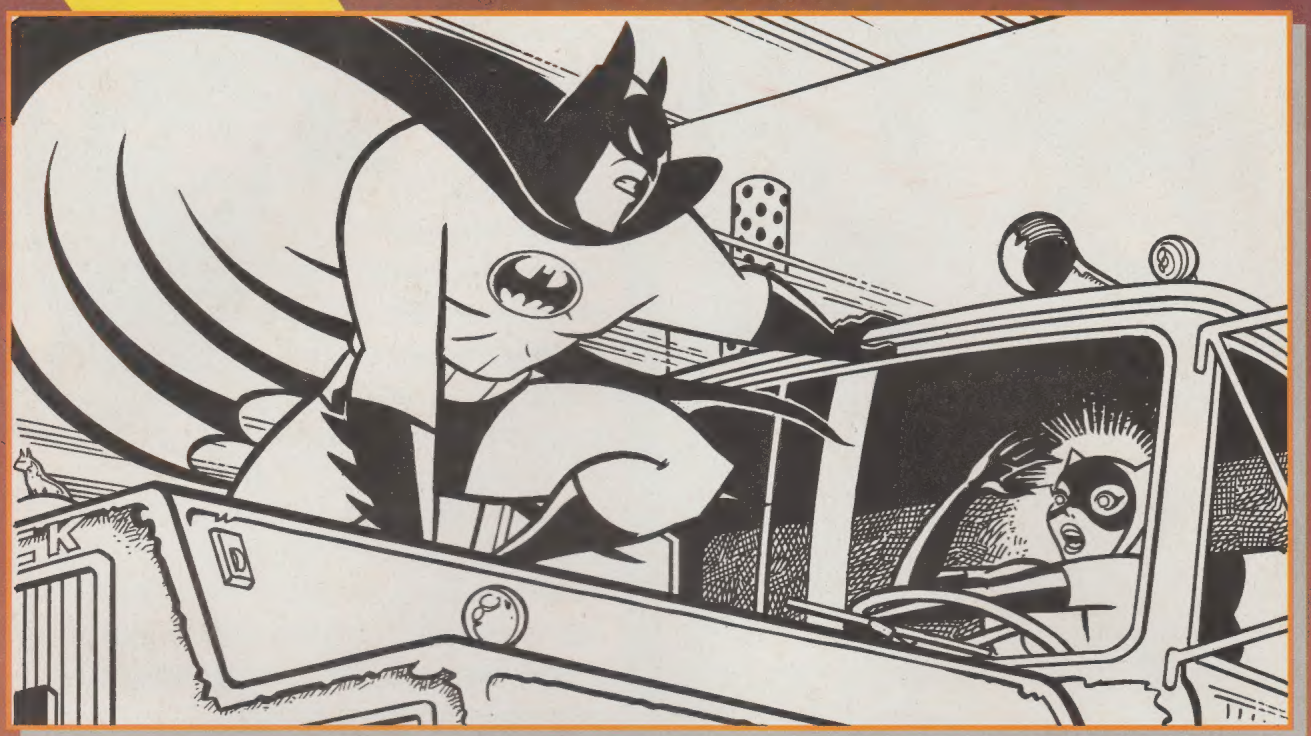


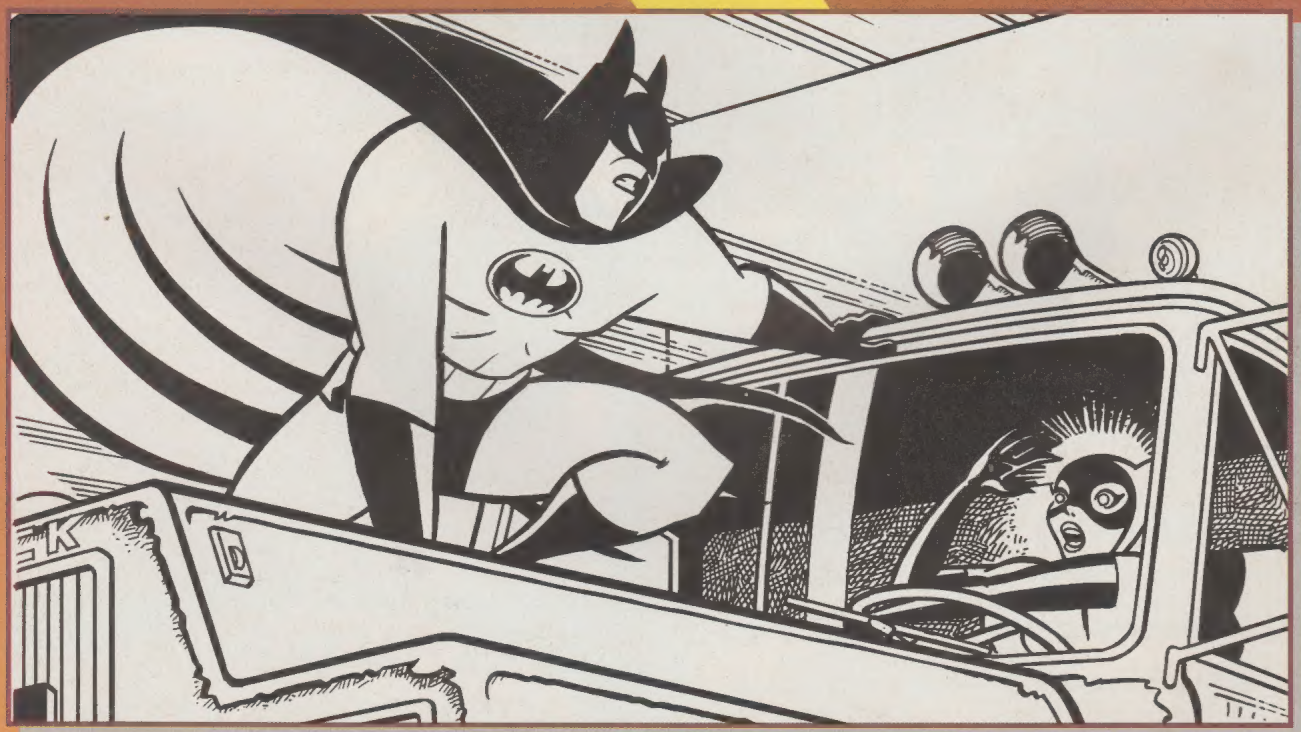
Clark Kent is puzzled when he notices that **Lois Lane** is behaving rather strangely. Why does she willingly disappear in a car with a known villain? And why does she give the **Man of Steel** such a hard time when he tries to help her? All will be revealed in the story *Where's Lois?*

THESE GREAT STORIES, A POSTER, PUZZLES AND LOTS MORE AWAIT YOU IN NEXT MONTH'S EXCITING ISSUE!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the **8** differences between these two pictures of Batman giving Catwoman a big surprise!





Answers: 1. The exhaust pipe on the cabin is missing, 2. There are two horns on the cabin, 3. Catwoman's ear is missing, 4. Catwoman's glove is longer, 5. The end of Batman's cape is different, 6. The wings on Batman's glove are missing, 7. The cat on the end of the bonnet is missing, 8. The light on the side of the bonnet is missing.